

MEDIA RELEASE



**For Immediate Release
February 23, 2010**

Dr. Barbara Heartwell Voluntarily Withdraws from Performing Surgery

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital received detailed information today about another event in which a patient was tragically harmed. In 2001, Dr. Heartwell performed a mastectomy on a patient whose post surgical pathology report indicated that no cancer was present.

Hospital Interim Chief of Staff, Dr. Kevin Tracey stated, "Last week, we began an investigation which included a review of Dr. Heartwell's past mastectomy cases and that investigation continues. In discussions with Dr. Heartwell and given the fact that another sentinel event has occurred, in the best interest of our patients, Dr. Heartwell has volunteered to temporarily withdraw from performing surgery pending the outcome of the hospital's investigation."

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital has been conducting a review of Dr. Heartwell's past cases and she has been subject to monitoring following revelations last week of an incident involving a patient treated by Dr. Heartwell in 2009.

"The hospital is deeply troubled by these incidents and is firmly resolved to fully investigate and take whatever measures are required," stated CEO Warren Chant.

The hospital will work with Dr. Heartwell to accommodate her patients that were scheduled for surgery.

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